

The Honorable Linda W. Cropp  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 504  
Washington, D.C. 20004

January 27, 2003

Dear Chairman Cropp:

Pursuant to section 1(b)(3) of An Act Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Estate in the District of Columbia No Longer Required for Public Purposes, approved August 5, 1939 (53 Stat. 1211; D.C. Official Code § 10-801(b)(3)), I am transmitting to the Council of the District of Columbia the "Request for Proposals for the Franklin School Approval Resolution of 2003" ("Request for Proposals"). With the Council's approval, the District will be able to embark on the redevelopment of this critical asset in the center of our great city.

This Request for Proposals was developed after several months of analyses and public comments. In March 2002, the Office of Planning hired Fetterman Associates to conduct an historical and architectural analysis of the Franklin School. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development hired Bolan/Smart Associates to conduct a cost/benefit analysis of the Franklin School. The analyses helped the Administration and the general public understand the possibilities and limits of adaptively reusing the school. In July 2002, the Administration presented the analyses to the general public and accepted comments for thirty (30) days.

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In addition to analyzing the potential reuses of the Franklin School, the Administration received multiple expressions of interests for the adaptive reuse of the historic school. Residential and commercial developers formally and informally presented ideas for the building's renovation. For several years, public charter school advocates, parents and principles advocated for the renovation of the building. On August 5, the Administration published a Request for Expressions of Interest to solicit additional ideas from developers, especially from cultural and higher education institutions. Responses were due on September 6 and incorporated into this Request for Proposals.

The Request for Proposals is very similar to one that were introduced last summer, but not acted upon by Council during the last Council session. The Request for Proposals was slightly modified to state that in addition to preferring cultural and higher education uses, the District will also consider submissions that propose housing.

I urge the Council to take prompt and favorable action on the attached resolution.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Williams

Enclosures  
AAW/slb